Quinkana

Quinkana is an extinct genus of mekosuchine crocodylians that lived in Australia from about 24 million to about 40,000 years ago. By the Pleistocene, *Quinkana* had become one of the top terrestrial predators of Australia, possessing long legs and ziphodont teeth (lateromedially compressed, recurved, and serrated). *Quinkana* comes from the "Quinkans", a legendary folk from Aboriginal myths.

Contents

Species
Description
Taxonomy
References
External links

Species

The species within *Quinkana* include: the type species *Q. fortirostrum* from the Pliocene and Pleistocene of Queensland,[1] *Q. babarra* from the Early Pliocene of Queensland,[2] *Q. timara* from the Middle Miocene of the Northern Territory, and *Q. meboldi* from the Late Oligocene of Queensland.

Description

Most specimens of *Quinkana* were small in size, about 3 m (10 ft), though, a fragmentary, Pliocene-aged specimen is estimated to have reached up to 6 m (20 ft) in length,[3] making it at the time one of Australia's largest predators, second only to the giant monitor lizard, *Megalania*.

Quinkana

Temporal range:

Late Oligocene–Late Pleistocene

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Life restoration of *Quinkana fortirostrum*

Scientific classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Reptilia
Order:	Crocodilia
Family:	Crocodylidae
Subfamily:	†Mekosuchinae
Genus:	†*Quinkana* Molnar, 1981

Species

- †*Q. fortirostrum* Molnar, 1981 (type)
- †*Q. babarra* Willis & Mackness, 1996
- †*Q. timara* Megirian, 1994
- †*Q. meboldi* Willis, 1997

Taxonomy

As stated earlier, *Quinkana* is a genus within the subfamily Mekosuchinae. Other genera included in this family include *Australosuchus*, *Baru*, *Kambara*, *Mekosuchus*, *Pallimnarchus*, and *Trilophosuchus*.

References

1. Sobbe, I. H.; Price, G. J.; Knezour, R. A. (2013) A ziphodont crocodile from the late Pleistocene King Creek catchment, Darling Downs, Queensland (http://espace.library.uq.edu.au/view/UQ:319724). Memoirs of the Queensland Museum – Nature, 56 2: 601-606.
2. Willis, P.M.A.; Mackness, B. (1996). "*Quinkana babarra*, a new species of ziphodont mekosuchine crocodile from the early Pliocene Bluff Downs Local Fauna, Northern Australia, with a revision of the genus" (http://biostor.org/reference/68800). *Proceedings and Journal of the Linnean Society of New South Wales*. **116**: 143–151. Retrieved 2014-08-04.
3. Molnar, R. E. (2004). *Dragons in the Dust: The Paleobiology of the Giant Monitor Lizard Megalania* (https://books.google.com/books?id=AvPHRQYqEcQC&printsec=frontcover). Indiana University Press. pp. 174–175. ISBN 0-253-34374-7. OCLC 52775128 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/52775128).

External links

- Australia's Lost Kingdoms (http://www.lostkingdoms.com/facts/factsheet55.htm)

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